Long Term Options for Dysphagia

DJO's Long Term Options for Dysphagia is a comprehensive program that includes a screener, evaluation and treatment program. This evidence based Dysphagia program will equip you to manage the challenges of dysphagia and its complications, allowing you to increase patient participation in therapy and decrease cost.

The Dysphagia Dilemma

• Approximately 10 million Americans are evaluated each year with swallowing difficulties
• Prevalence of dysphagia is as high as 22% in those over 50 years of age
• The consequences of dysphagia include dehydration, malnutrition, aspiration pneumonia, and airway obstruction
• 30%-75% of patients in nursing homes have dysphagia

Addressing the Dysphagia Dilemma

• Requires a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary approach
• Patients and residents at risk for dysphagia must be identified
• Impairments must be identified and should be aggressively treated utilizing electrical stimulation to enhance outcomes

Dysphagia Risk Management Care Plan

Nursing regularly screens ALL residents and patients for signs and symptoms of dysphagia.

### Necessary Elements
- Dysphagia Screening Tool
- Staff Education

At risk patients are referred for SP swallowing evaluation.

### Necessary Elements
- Standard Evaluation Tools
- MASA

SLP treats impairments identified in evaluation.

### Necessary Elements
- VitalStim Clinical Protocols
- Staff Education

Nursing regularly reevaluates for signs and symptoms of dysphagia.

### Necessary Elements
- Dysphagia Screening Tool

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The Power of Skilled Modality Use

#### Without skilled modality use
- Limited oral intake
- Dehydration
- Increased occurrence of UTI's
- Increased occurrence of pneumonia
- Increased occurrence of falls
- Increased tissue breakdown
- Decreased alertness, increased depression
- Poor quality of life
- Decreased participation in therapy
- Limited ability to mobilize

#### With skilled modality use
- Accelerated return to oral intake
- Better hydration
- Decreased occurrence of UTI's
- Decreased occurrence of pneumonia
- Decreased occurrence of falls
- Accelerated tissue healing
- Better alertness, decreased depression
- Increased quality of life
- Increased participation in therapy
- Increased mobility and stability

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**VitalStim Indications:**
- Muscle re-education by application of external stimulation to the muscles necessary for pharyngeal contraction